

TAG-A-LONG

REDCLIFFE TO GOONDIWINDI (VIA RATHDOWNEY AND LEYBURN, THEN RETURNING VIA YELARBON AND KALBAR!)



Departing BigRiggen camping reserve on Sunday 21/3/10, 4 vans proceeded in convoy through Boonah to Fassifern where morning tea was had then up through Cunningham's gap and turning North just 20 KLM's short of Warwick to go to Nobby Town via Allora. Lunch was had at Nobby town and we were joined by the Torrington's and the White's making it 6 Vans now.

Departing Nobby town the convoy travelled through Clifton and small country roads arriving at Leyburn in the early afternoon, our destination for the night. Here we stayed behind the iconic Royal hotel famous for being owned by Shane Webece and being the oldest continually licensed hotel in QLD. Not much to set up here so happy hour started early. No power or water here but the cost of the stay (including the shower) was to have a meal and what a meal we enjoyed! Sunday is not a big night at Leyburn so we were the only ones in the pub.

Leaving Leyburn Monday morning 22/3/10 we headed for Goondiwindi via Karara, Inglewood and Yelarbon. Morning tea was had at Inglewood and the rest area was an absolute treat with wonderful green grass, shelter sheds etc. It was here that we saw a sight that you do not see every day.....a 4x4 ute carrying a giro copter and towing a van and a motor home with a trailer and another giro copter in it. Nancy our ever reliable info scout found out that they had left Brisbane that morning and were headed to WA for a big giro copter convention. One of their big desires was to gyro copter along the Nullarbor. How could they? Well the husbands would do the flying until they ran out of fuel and the wives would drive the vehicles chasing them!



Arriving at Gundy mid afternoon we were set up quickly as a result of the big drive through sites. These are unusual as they are wide enough for two vans but you park nose to nose one either side. So the result is that the awnings are on the same side but off set by the length of your car. Ok if you know the person next to you but I do not know how it would go if you did not! A decision was made to take advantage of the courtesy bus and have

tea at the RSL.

Gundy is a pleasant large modern sprawling town that is actually in two states. The down side is that trucks outnumber cars, well on the bypass road at least. At one count there were 150 trucks an hour rolling through. Where the caravan park we stayed in was situated we could sit and watch them in the distance. What a sight at night with all their lights.

Our intention was to spend two nights in Gundy and then drive further West to Nindigully for a night before returning to Yelarbon. Unfortunately the info we had suggested that the road had wash outs and was not friendly to vans. Never the less the Giles's decided on Tuesday to do a day drive out to have a look. Upon their return they reported that the road to Nindigully was fine...but the bugs were in force numbers so we could not have stayed. They also went to St George and part of this road had a wash out but it was passable for cars. Cyril and Lil departed on Tuesday for places south on their way to SA. We receive updates on their adventures via email from his lap top. Helen and John also departed today for Inverell to do some fossicking.

Also on Tuesday a group of 8 vans from the Southern Cross Caravan club turned up. We chatted with some and from then on as we crossed each others paths at various parts on the road back and it was always with horns blaring and UHF comments. Great bunch of people.

We had a collective BBQ for tea and then Terry and Marlene entertained us along with some of the Southern Cross men who came over for a sign a long.

Wednesday dawned and we decided to drive to Moonie. Hell there had to be something there as it is the capital of Australia's Gas and Oil fields!!! After 100 KLM's drive we arrived to a road house and information, come library, come doctors rooms, come council building!!! The road house is unbelievable as it stocks almost everything and has the biggest jeans range we have ever seen. Morning tea was had here before we drove the 100 KLM's back to Gundy. An interesting thing we found at the info centre was that the woman operating it was the headmistress of the local school (could see it from the building) who has taken leave of absence and then was talked into doing the info centre job. The interesting thing was that she had been transferred there as headmistress 15 years ago and was to stay 12 months.....but met a man, who owned a station, who was willing to marry her, who had kids, (on both sides like the Brady bunch) and the rest is history. She claims the night life is fantastic.....we did not want to go there!!!

On Wednesday after we arrived back from Moonie I received a call that the Hambleton's were at Texas and on their way to us! What a good surprise this was as we initially believed that they would catch us up at Kalbar. Keith and Shaneen should have been with us from BigRiggen but a sad loss of a loved one delayed their departure from Redcliffe .

Departing Gundy on Thursday 25/3/10 we drove the 50 KLM's to Yelarbon our stop over for the night. This was not the original plan as we should have been

coming from Nindigully but that is how it turned out. We stayed in a little paradise that the locals have that they call their recreational reserve. Very nice spot indeed. As we arrived morning tea time we had that and then took the opportunity to drive to Texas to have a look and some lunch. Texas is larger than you expect and we had a wonderful Chinese meal at the pub...(there we go again in a pub!) The meal was so big we all walked the town and then drove the short distance to the free camp. This was a little disappointing as it was somewhat overgrown but the Southern Cross vans were there! Returning to Yelarbon we walked into town, although there is not much to see. The reserve we were staying in has a small historical collection so we spent some time looking at old memories of the place in it's hey day.

Friday 26/3/10 we left Yelarbon for Kalbar via Inglewood, Warwick and Cunningham's gap. The earliest we had ever left a venue...9.00am!!! Keith tried to take the credit for this but was soon put in his place. Morning tea was had at a small rest stop close to Warwick on the Western side and who should drive past blowing their horns etc but the Southern Cross people. The poor council workers doing the morning clean up did not know what was going on!



Arriving at Kalbar early afternoon we met up with John and Helen who had arrived a wee bit earlier from their detour. Set up was quickly completed and a walk into town was done. Small but with plenty of history. I recommend the emporium as it is like one of yesterday. Credit to the operator. There was a circus in the main arena so we looked forward to what was to happen that night. Dinner that night was to be a smorgasbord put on by the Kalbar show society ladies. The Southern Cross folks had mentioned to us at Gundy, when they



found out we were having the meal that we would not be disappointed and we were not! What a spread. Afterwards a few persons walked around the show arena numerous times in an attempt to settle the meal. A strange sight was had when we walked past the circus tent. No dressing rooms for these tough performers as one fellow was putting on his clown face paint in the glare of a spot light out in the open behind the tent. The

circus received a pretty good roll up considering it had no animals. Once the show was over the performers turned into roadies and proceeded to take the large circus tent down and pack away all the equipment as they were leaving

that night for another town and another show the next night! I think they did not get away before midnight.

Knowing that the next day was the drive home for most of us (the White's and the Hambleton's were staying on) and the end of our adventure we all stayed up that much later trying to stretch the time a bit. Terry and Marlene again entertained us and then many games of UNO were played.

Saturday morning and we slowly packed up and left for home.....

END